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NFAC No.1030-79

28 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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FROM: [redacted]
National Intelligence Officer for China

SUBJECT: SCC Ad Hoc Working Group on China Meeting, 23 February 1979 at 1730 hours

1. The meeting convened in the White House Situation Room following the regular SCC Meeting, and was chaired by Oksenberg of the NSC. Discussion was confined entirely to problems relating to the US military presence on Taiwan following the establishment of the American Institute on Taiwan (AIT) and as our Mutual Defense Treaty with Taiwan phases out.

2. Main points arising were as follows:

-- Status of DOD civilians after 30 April, when the Taiwan Defense Command closes down. It was agreed that all DOD civilians regularly assigned to Taiwan would be within the AIT and subject to its personnel ceiling of 50 people, except for personnel sent on TDY for less than 180 days and those handling the transition to contractual arrangements (in place MAAG supervision of certain functions) and those handling the Pacific Depot Maintenance Center (PDM). These latter people would also be put under contract.

-- Training of Taiwan military personnel in the US: Would this be permitted to continue, and would uniforms and insignia of rank be worn? It was decided that such training would be permissible when it could not be provided by a private contractor; could be performed in a US service school;

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OSD & DOS review(s) completed.

NSC review(s) completed.

[redacted]

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would be of technical and non-professional nature; and would be connected with the sale of weapons. Professional military training would be provided only if it could be proved that its absence would result in a serious degradation of Taiwan's military capability to defend itself. (DOD had, in fact, programmed Taiwan officers for the Naval War College and Marine Corps Command and Staff College.) The question of wearing uniform and insignia of rank was left open and would probably be sent to the President for decision, along with the problem of whether to permit training to begin in 1979, while the Mutual Defense Treaty is in effect, which would continue into 1980.

-- Training of Taiwan military personnel on-island by US personnel. It was agreed that training would be limited to activities of a trouble-shooting nature, i.e., assuring the continued operational readiness of weapons and equipment beyond the capabilities of the Taiwan military to provide. US personnel doing this trouble-shooting would be on TDY status. Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) would not be permissible.

-- US ship visits to Taiwan. There have been none in January or February; it was decided that in compensation ship visits would be stepped up until May 1 with the justification that such visits would be connected with the US military withdrawal from Taiwan. Subsequently, ship visits would be of a "measured" nature. The question of whether admirals should remain aboard units under their command during visits to Taiwan was left unresolved; this, too, will be referred to the President.

-- Joint US-Taiwan exercises. There will be no such joint exercises after 1 May. General Smith of the JCS requested approval of a joint exercise to be held 5 March to test Taiwan air defenses. A new integrated command and control system has just been installed and DOD believes this would be the last chance to test it. The advisability of holding this exercise under present circumstances (normalization and the Sino-Vietnam conflict) was questioned,

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and this issue will also be referred to the President for decision. The cut-off date for the exercise is 28 February.

-- Permission to Taiwan to station a small military representative group in Hawaii for liaison with CINCPAC. Both the Taiwan authorities and Admiral Wiesner will be told that this is unnecessary.

3. Outside the meeting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Roger Sullivan briefed me on the problems caused the AIT by Senator Hollings' refusal to sanction reprogramming of funds from the regular State budget to support the AIT. Hollings was insisting that action be taken to move out of Taiwan personnel from State who would otherwise be assigned to the AIT, and wanted proof of movement by the evening of 24 February Washington time. Accordingly, orders were being issued to some people to pack and leave. Others would be put on leave status to supervise internal arrangements to close down the Embassy, but would not be permitted to provide services to the public. Sullivan anticipated, however, that Hollings would finally relent and at the last minute withdraw his opposition to the reprogramming of funds.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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WITH TOP SECRET
ATTACHMENT

February 27, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Summary of Conclusions from
SCC Ad Hoc Meeting on China
February 23, 1979 - Situation Room (C)

Attached is a copy of the Summary of Conclusions from above meeting.

Christine Dodson
Staff Secretary

CONFIDENTIAL
Declassify on February 23, 1980
TOP SECRET ATTACHMENT

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SCC AD HOC GROUP MEETING

CHINA

February 23, 1979
5:05 - 6:45 p.m.
Situation Room

Participants

State
Roger Sullivan (Dep Asst Sec for EA & Pacific Affairs)

CIA
Ambassador Holdridge (NIO for China)

JCS
General Smith
Col Robert Quackenbush

DOD
Michael Armacost (Dep Asst Sec for EA & Pacific Affairs)
Lt Col Kenneth Richardson

NSC
Michel Oksenberg
Col Leslie Denend

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SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

The meeting discussed DOD issues relating to Taiwan after normalization. It follows on a meeting of January 4 which addressed a similar range of issues. The meeting decided that:

-- DOD civilians on Taiwan engaged in transitional activities, such as the closing of the Programmed Depot Maintenance Facilities will not be counted against the manpower ceiling of the AIT. [redacted] 25X1

-- When DOD civilians have to go to Taiwan, approval for their visit would be on a case-by-case basis. If the duties would entail a stay of less than 180 days, they would be on TDY. If their assignment would be longer than that, they would fit under the AIT manpower ceiling. [redacted] 25X1

-- NSC will submit a Decision Memorandum concerning Taiwan participation in on- and off-island training. State and DOD sharply differ on this issue, with DOD desiring an extensive training program for Taiwan military personnel in the U.S. State wishes to restrict training only to those military systems which Taiwan has purchased and for which no civilian training programs exist. [redacted] 25X1

-- Navy ship visits to Taiwan will be resumed in March, although under a carefully controlled schedule as to frequency and level of visit. [redacted] 25X1

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